

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1823
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 1950

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TAGS: PORC, UNGS, SHUM, PARM, CSCE, XZ
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' HELSINKI
COMMUNIQUE

REF: (A) HELSINKI 1854 (NOTAL), (B) HELSINKI 1949 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE FIVE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN
HELSINKI SEPTEMBER 1-2 IN WHAT HAS BECOME THEIR TRADITIONAL
FALL GATHERING TO COORDINATE POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE UNGA. AS EXPECTED
(REFTEL A) THE SET OF ISSUES MOST PROMINENTLY
FEATURED IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE MINISTERS RELATES
TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. OTHER THEMES EMPHASIZED IN THE
COMMUNIQUE ARE: SUPPORT FOR THE UN; POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS
IN CSCE; THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES
TO THE DETENTE PROCESS; SUPPORT FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT
INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO A HOMELAND;
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THE NEED FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PEACEKEEPING FINANCING
PROBLEM; HOPE FOR PROGRESS IN THE LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE; THE NEED FOR FURTHER EFFORTS IN
NEGOTIATIONS TO REALIZE A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER; AND SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES - THESE RECEIVED THE MOST

PROMINENT ATTENTION IN THE HELSINKI COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS SEPTEMBER 2. THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD PLANNED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION; REAFFIRMED NORDIC POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA BASED ON THE GUIDELINES ISSUED IN THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AUGUST 1976 COMMUNIQUE IN COPENHAGEN; STRESSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA BEARS THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; CONDEMNED APARTHEID; ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE A JOINT ACTION PROGRAM OF WIDENED ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA; WELCOMED THE UK/US RHODESIAN PROPOSALS; EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA; AND ANNOUNCED THE READINESS OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO FACILITATE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA. (REFTEL B REPORTS THE COMMUNIQUE'S SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVISIONS IN MORE DETAIL.)

3. SUPPORT FOR THE UN- REFERRING TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AREAS AND TENSIONS AND TO ONGOING EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO SUCH PROBLEMS, THE COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMS NORDIC SUPPORT FOR THE UN AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND FOR THE RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN CHARTER.

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4. CSCE - THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THERE IS NO REALISTIC

ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE. THE MINISTERS ARE THEREFORE SATISFIED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING AT BELGRADE REACHED AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES AND AGENDA. AT BELGRADE THE NORDIC COUNTRIES WANT TO CONTRIBUTE "TO AN OBJECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACT HAVE SO FAR BEEN IMPLEMENTED AS WELL AS TO CONCRETE DECISIONS ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE." THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE CSCE PROCESS AFTER BELGRADE.

5. DISARMAMENT - THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THAT TANGIBLE DISARMAMENT MEASURES ARE NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN THE DETENTE PROCESS. THE COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND THE NEED TO PREPARE FOR IT. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; OF THE LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS; OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY; AND OF A BAN ON

CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE MINISTERS HOPED THAT THE SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS AND ON REDUCTION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD SOON YIELD FAVORABLE RESULTS. CURIOUSLY, THE COMMUNIQUE LINKS DISARMAMENT AND THE SOLVING OF PRESSING DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

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6. MIDDLE EAST - THE MINISTERS CALLED FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THESE RESOLUTIONS ARE: ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE IS UNACCEPTABLE; ISRAEL MUST CEASE ITS OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES SEIZED IN 1967; AND RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA AND FOR THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. THE MINISTERS AGREED IN ADDITION "THAT A SOLUTION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PALESTINIANS RIGHT TO A HOMELAND. THE PALESTINIANS MUST, FOR THEIR PART, RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE SECURED PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN A MANNER TO BE WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT NO PARTY TAKES

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MEASURES WHICH WOULD MAKE THE ONGOING PEACE EFFORTS STILL MORE DIFFICULT."

7. UN PEACEKEEPING - THE MINISTERS DREW ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF FINANCING UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO REACH A BALANCED SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS.

8. LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE - THE MINISTERS NOTED PROGRESS MADE AT THE RECENT SESSION BUT REGRETTED LACK OF AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED REGIME. THEY AGREED THAT THE NEXT SESSION SHOULD BE PREPARED WELL IN ADVANCE AT AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH BROAD PARTICIPATION.

9. NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES - THE COMMUNIQUE CONSIDERS THAT NORTH/SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS MADE CERTAIN LIMITED PROGRESS AT THE CIEC. FURTHER EFFORTS SHOULD, PRIMARILY, BE TAKEN WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. THE MINISTERS WELCOMED THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO INCREASE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH A COMMON FUND. THE COMMUNIQUE CITES THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES AND THE QUESTION OF THE FORMS OF GLOBAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS - THE MINISTERS STRESSED EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UN ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA. THEY EMPHASIZED THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF ALLEVIATING HUMAN POVERTY AND SUFFERING IN A LARGE PART OF THE

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WORLD AND OF SUSTAINING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE WORLD COMMUNITY MUST ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PROTECTION AGAINST TORTURE. THE MINISTERS ALSO STRESSED "THE IMPORTANCE OF WORLD OPINION FOCUSING ATTENTION ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES."

11. OTHER COMMUNIQUE POINTS - THE MINISTERS UNDERLINED

THE IMPORTANCE OF INSURING A FAIR REPRESENTATION FOR
THE NORDIC COUNTRIES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
AND RENEWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDACY OF NORWAY
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD
1979-1980. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY
OF FINNISH SUPREME COURT JUDGE EERO MANNER FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE ELECTION TO BE
HELD IN 1978. AT THE INVITATION OF NORWAY, THE NEXT
MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL TAKE
PLACE IN OSLO ON MARCH 9-10, 1978.
RIDGWAY

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